

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 22 and 25 will be pending. Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 16 and 26 had been previously canceled. Claims 9, 11, 13-15, 17-18, 20-24 and 27-32 are canceled in this response.

Claims 19 and 25 are currently pending. Claim 19 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 17.

No new matter has been added.

Applicants sincerely request entry of the present amendments to the claims as it puts the application in condition for allowance by cancelling rejected claims without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and amending claims which have been objected to.

Claim Rejections -- 35 USC § 112

The Examiner rejects claims 9, 11, 13-15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as not being enabled.

Applicants note that claims 9, 11, 13-15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 27- 32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection is moot and request that it be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 9, 11, 13-15, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, and 28 as obvious in view of Fiedler, Gerber, Badylak, Desnoyers and Dabbagh. The Examiner adds claims 29, 30, and 32 to the rejection as well.

Applicants note that claims 9, 11, 13-15, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27-30 and 32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection is moot and request that it be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

The Examiner asserts that if claim 22 were found allowable, claim 25 would be objected to as being a substantial duplicate thereof under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75. Claim 22 has been canceled. Applicants request that the double patenting objection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

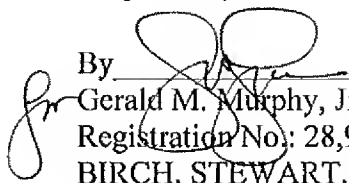
In view of the above remarks, all of the claims are submitted as defining clear, enabled, and non-obvious, patentable subject matter. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Susan W. Gorman Reg. No. 47,604 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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